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HARRIS LAWRENCE E  
77 MONTVIDEO 5564

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PAGE 01  
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ACTICN APA-14  
INFO OCT-01 150-00 PA-05 M05-01 CIAI-00 D05-02 PA-05  
R-21 INF-27 L-02 USAE-02 R00-70 PA-01 PRO-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USA-06 /067

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTVIDEO  
TO SECRETARY WASHDC 5561  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE; MONTVIDEO 5564

1.0. 11003: N/A  
TAGS: SEW, UY

SUBJ: FUGAN AIRCRAFT - SHOW TRIAL OF FOUR DEFENDERS  
REF: A. MONTVIDEO A-77, B. MONTVIDEO A-77  
1. THE NOVEMBER 16 PUBLIC HEARING OF ACCUSED APPLICANTS BY  
FOUR ALLIED JUDICIALS SHOWED THE SUPREMACY OF MILITARY  
JUDICIAL. THE HIGHEST COURT IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE  
SYSTEM, WAS EXTENSIVELY PUBLICIZED BY PRO-GOVERNMENT  
MEDIA. SUCH TRIALS ARE RARE EVENTS AND ARE STAGED  
AT THE GOVT SHOW ON THE MILITARY JUDICIAL  
SYSTEM AND TO DEMONSTRATE ITS EFFICIENCY. THE  
HEARING IS THAT PROVIDED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS  
INTO THE OPERATION OF THIS SYSTEM.  
2. ALL FOUR OF THE PRISONERS WERE ACCUSED OF IN-  
VOLUNTARY IN THE 1972 MURDER OF AN ASSISTANT POLICE  
OFFICER AND HIS DRIVER. IN ADDITION, THE LEADER OF  
THE GROUP, WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM FUGA CAMPETAS  
PRISON IN 1973, WAS ACCUSED OF THE SUSPECTED MURDER  
OF THE PRISON'S CHIEF INSPECTOR (WHO HAD PROBABLY  
BEEN SENT TO COLLABORATE IN THE ESCAPE ATTEMPT). HE  
WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF ANOTHER POLICE  
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INSPECTOR IN 1968.  
3. THE FOUR PRISONERS, MOUNTAINED, WITH SHAVEN  
HEADS, WERE ASSIGNED IN BAGGY PRISON UNIFORMS.  
THE CHARGES WERE READ AND THE DEFENSE LAWYERS HEADED  
THEIR OWNERS' CASES. THE LAWYERS ARGUED ONLY FOR  
A REDUCTION IN THE SENTENCES; NOT COUNTERING THE  
TRIAL OF THE PRISONERS, BUT ONLY THE DIGNITY OF THEIR  
COURT. THE PROSECUTOR THEN ROSE AND RECALLED THE  
CRIMES, EMPHASIZING THEIR SEVERITY AND COLD-BLOODED  
CIRCUMSTANCES. HE ASSERTED THAT, DURING THEIR PRISON  
WITH THE MONTIV CAMPETAS, HE ACCUSED HAD "HONORABLE  
EVERY TRACE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY". LASTLY,  
HE ARGUED AGAINST ANY REDUCTION OF SENTENCE BECAUSE  
OF THE DIFFICULTY IN REHABILITATING THIS TYPE OF  
CRIMINAL. FOLLOWING A BRIEF ADDRESSING THE  
SENTENCE, EACH OF THE PRISONERS WAS GIVEN THE  
MAXIMUM AVAILABLE SENTENCE FOR HIS CRIMES PLUS  
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR                                                                    |                     |
| REVIEWED BY <u>J. Man</u>                                                                       | DATE <u>4/21/78</u> |
| RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE                          | REASON(S)           |
| TS AUTH.                                                                                        |                     |
| ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>                                              |                     |
| DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                     |
| RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         |                     |
| PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS                                                                            |                     |

